

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Then what's its purpose? All such technologies are greenlighted and implemented to stop the bleeding of consumer copying. Unfortunately, the content industry seems to have no problem with "collateral damage" to fair-use rights in its anti-piracy efforts.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?
See my response to question 1.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

I find this difficult to believe. And more to the point, the structure of such technology is to treat the consumer with suspicion--not a particularly savvy business strategy.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Their pursuit of a broadcast flag is an open invitation to the underground technology community to develop anti-flag software and other circumvention systems, all of which will circulate widely and for free.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

The cost will be in rights lost, more than dollars spent.

Other Comments:

Let's not begin this new technological venture in an atmosphere of suspicion, where the consumer is "on probation" as a potential thief rather than wooed as a valued client. TiVo is a perfect example of technology that discourages piracy by offering a superior alternative.